

July 29, 2011

Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, U.S. House Energy &
Commerce Committee
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, U.S. House Energy &
Commerce Committee
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The undersigned are service providers and manufacturers of the broadband devices, technologies, networks, and critical applications that will enable first responders to even more effectively do their jobs and save lives. We write to call your attention to an aspect of interoperability that will be key to ensuring that the public safety wireless broadband network your bills and discussion drafts envision can take advantage of a robustly competitive market for critical applications, network technologies, and devices. While it is important, as you recognize, for public safety wireless broadband networks to interoperate, it is equally important that public safety be able to choose from competing vendors in procuring the numerous technologies that will comprise the public safety broadband wireless network using open standards. This aspect of interoperability must be understood and implemented in order to apply the successful competitive procurement and deployment model of commercial networks, which has sped service provision, reduced consumer prices, and driven innovation.

Interoperability is a lot like the weather – everyone likes to talk about it, but making actual improvements has been very difficult. In forging legislation to ensure a truly interoperable public safety wireless broadband network, with your leadership a real opportunity exists to effect meaningful change. We urge you to incorporate provisions that will make competition – the lynchpin for interoperability – a central aspect of the overall statutory framework. Interoperability must be viewed as interchangeability: the ability of public safety to interact with a multi-sourced supply chain, grounded in open standards. All critical applications, devices and network technologies should be capable of being used together regardless of brand or network location, and public safety must be encouraged to develop a competitive supply.

Once again, we applaud your dedication to this issue, and urge you to ensure that sound competitive policies drive the deployment of a nationwide, interoperable and interchangeable public safety wireless broadband network.

Sincerely,

Harris Corporation

Alcatel-Lucent

Cassidian Communications Inc.

Cisco Systems, Inc.

Nokia Siemens Networks

Panasonic Solutions Company

RELM Wireless Corporation

Sprint Nextel Corporation